

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2009
CATHEDRAL PINES COUNTY PARK, MIDDLE ISLAND, N.Y.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Chairman, Town of Riverhead
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Gregory Dawson	Vice Chairman, Town of Islip
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Edward Walters	Trustee, Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
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PARKS DEPARTMENT

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Karen Nicholson	Superintendent
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office

Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC PORTION

Members of the public were present; however they did not wish to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2009

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

Lauretta Fischer proposed one acquisition. A colored site map was distributed describing the property.

United Artists County Park Addition – Blachly Property – Eastport, Town of Southampton

The acquisition of 26.7 acres in Eastport, Town of Southampton. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk Drinking Water Protection Program (C12-5(E)(1)(b)).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Walters and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Recap of Cedar Point County Park Master Plan

Copies of the Draft Cedar Point County Park Master Plan were distributed at the last Trustees meeting. The Commissioner asked if the Trustees had any questions. Commissioner Pavacic would like to schedule a field meeting for the Trustees to tour the park and review what is proposed in the Master Plan. Ann Rothenberg will reach out to the Trustees to schedule the field meeting before the July meeting.

Site Visit to the Proposed Pilot Dog Park in the Coram Area

The Commissioner would like to schedule a field meeting to this potential site in the coming months.

Draft of 2010 Operating Budget

Copies of the budget were distributed to the Trustees. The Commissioner said due to the current economic and fiscal situation, this is a very pared down budget. The Commissioner will be meeting with his staff and DPW to look at ways to further reduce fuel, heating and energy expenses; i.e. lowering thermostats when buildings are not use. It is very difficult to make our historic structures energy efficient. Please note that we do not receive any benefit from Member Item Grants (see page 6 of Operating Budget). We are the administrator of those grants.

A motion to approve the 2010 Operating Budget was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Entrance to Cupsogue

The Commissioner reported there have been some internal meetings regarding this issue. The County Attorney has reached out to the Village of Westhampton Dunes for some additional paperwork. We are waiting for that paperwork before doing anything further with the project. Once we have all the necessary materials in place from the village as well as something in writing from the Town of Brookhaven, which has coastal erosion hazard area jurisdiction, we will look to bring this to CEQ.

Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts. There have been some preliminary discussions with the Suffolk County Council of Boy Scouts about having an anniversary party in the fall of 2010 at one of our parks, most likely at Southaven County Park.

Smith Point Marina

The channel at the Smith Point Marina that runs north/south (and connects the marina to the intercoastal waterway) is owned by the County. The intercoastal waterway is a federally managed channel that runs east/west. The County owns and maintains the channel that connects the marina at Smith Point to this intercoastal waterway. DPW maintains and dredges that channel; however the County is also responsible for marking that channel with buoys. Buoys have not been there for a number of years and we have received a number of queries regarding this. At the Parks Committee meeting yesterday, a resolution was approved to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with Brookhaven Town to have Brookhaven assist us in installing buoys.

Purchase of Northfork Preserve

The County Executive announced the approval of the purchase of the Northfork Preserve property. It's 300 acres of open space located on Sound Avenue in the Town of Riverhead.

Potential Natural Border Off Leash Dog Park – Roe Avenue

At the May Trustees meeting there was discussion on the proposed Natural Border Off Leash Dog Park Pilot Program on Roe Avenue. Commissioner Pavacic reported he received an email from Ed McMullen, representing L.I. Dog, asking if we would consider putting in permanent trash cans and dog waste dispensers and bags. The Commissioner responded he would not be in favor of this - it would defeat the purpose of a natural borders dog park which has no amenities. We would also be concerned about illegal dumping and overflowing trash cans. Mr. McMullen asked if L.I. Dog wanted to do a group cleanup, would we temporarily install trash cans. The Commissioner responded yes, perhaps for a weekend.

The Commissioner asked the Trustees for their endorsement of the proposal for a potential Off Leash Natural Border Dog Park Pilot Program.

A motion to approve the concept for an Off Leash Natural Border Dog Park Pilot Program was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Corwin. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Fenced in Dog Park at Southaven County Park

The Commissioner reported the County Executive vetoed the resolution, however the Legislature overrode the veto. We have not yet come up with a design as required in the resolution. The Legislature directed that the dog park go into the stable area or the overflow parking area. The Commissioner said the SPCA will be moving into the stable area and the overflow parking area is used for major events. Southaven is a prime location for having big events.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone mentioned that we offered approximately 10 acres across the street from the Trap and Skeet facility (that was once federal property) for the dog park. It would be the largest dog park in Suffolk County. Legislature Browning sent out letters to the neighbors who responded that it was too close to their houses and dismissed the idea.

Housing Rentals

The Commissioner reported the Parks Committee passed the first resolution regarding the housing rental program. In most cases this resolution reduces the rent for most of the properties listed. It now has to go before the full Legislature. This would help us keep the properties occupied.

Operation of Marinas

The Commissioner reported we recently prepared a draft RFEI for operation of our marinas at Timber Point and Shinnecock. The draft is currently under review.

RFP – Seatuck – Scully Estate Environmental Interpretive Center Design

The Commissioner thanked Trustee Dawson for his assistance in representing the Trustees during the RFP review process.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported Trustee Hilary's father was ill and hospitalized at Winthrop University Hospital. The Trustees expressed their care and concern for Mr. Hilary.

The Chairman reported that he, along with Trustee McKay and Trustee White, recently met with P.O. Lindsay regarding I.R. 1273. Trustee Dawson reported the Legislature agreed to table I.R. 1273 until the Charter Review Commission reviews and reaches a decision.

Trustee Shilling reported the findings of the Charter Review Commission are in the process of being printed.

ROUND TABLE

Fishing Pier

Trustee White asked about the status of the John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that construction is set to begin in July.

Cupsogue Boardwalk

Trustee White asked about the status of the Cupsogue Boardwalk.

Nick Gibbons responded that it is going out to bid for contractual services (to put together a design and secure all the necessary permits). We will then put out a separate bid for the construction.

GATR Site – Maintenance Building

Trustee White asked for an update on the maintenance building at the GATR site.

Commissioner Pavacic reported there is going to be a pre-construction meeting at the end of the month with DPW.

Community Gardens Committee in Huntington, NY

Trustee McKay reported a meeting was held on May 20th by Community Gardens, a committee in Huntington, NY. Several Legislators were present as well as representatives of Huntington Farmlands, Friends of Huntington Farmlands Inc., Peconic Land Trust, plus others. Friends of Froehlich Farm currently use County property for community gardens. All proceeds go to local food banks. The Town of Huntington has offered additional land for farming purposes. Trustee McKay distributed copies of Friends of Huntington Farmlands, Inc. Activities and Accomplishments for 2008.

Piping Plover Report

Nick Gibbons distributed the 2008 Piping Plover Report to the Trustees.

Northfork Preserve Property

Trustee Corwin asked the Commissioner a question about the map of the Northfork Preserve area. When looking at the aerial, there's additional land to the west that's not within that line – it looks like it's part of the Preserve. Is that part of the acquisition?

Lauretta Fischer responded that's under a PRD (Purchase of Development Rights).

Trustee Corwin asked if they do sport shooting at the preserve and will it be continued.

Superintendent Nicholson said if we are to keep the hunting, it would be run just as we run the hunting programs we offer at Southaven County Park, Montauk and Sears Bellows.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 16th at Indian Island Golf Course in Riverhead, New York.

Chairman Cardillo reported he will be not available for the July 16th meeting. Vice Chairman Dawson will chair the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Engel. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0